

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, GR, TU
SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO RAISE TREATMEN OF GREEKS IN TURKEY IN
PARLIAMENT

1. THE ATTEMPT BY AN OPPOSITION DEPUTY TO EXPAND A
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ABOUT GOT VISA REQUIREMENTS
TO A BROADER DISCUSSION OF TURKISH TREATMENT OF THE GREEK MINORITY
IN TURKEY TOUCHED OFF A MINOR FLAP IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 3.
DURING THE REGULAR FRIDAY MORNING INTERPELLATION PERIOD, UNION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER DEPUTY (FROM CRETE) BANDOUVAS, WHO HAS THE
PROPRIETY OF THE TURKISH CONSULATE'S REQUIRING GREEKS
APPLYING FOR VISAS TO PRESENT THEIR VOTING BOOKLETS.

2. IN MAKING THE ORAL PRESENTATION OF HIS INTERPELLATION,
BANDOUVAS GOT CARRIED AWAY AND WENT BEYOND THE QUESTION
HE HAD TABLED IN WRITING, RAISING THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF
TURKISH TREATMENT OF GREEKS IN TURKEY. HE REVIEWED
TURKISH PERSECUTION OF THE GREEK MINORITY OVER THE
YEARS, RECALLING WHAT HAD HAPPENED SINCE 1922, THE
1955 ANTI-GREEK RIOTS IN ISTANBUL, PRESSURES ON
THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE, AND ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
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OF THE TERMS OF THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE CONCERNING THE
STATUS OF THE GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY. FINALLY
BANDOUVAS CHARGED THAT THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES MAINTAINED
CLOSE SURVEILLANCE ON THE GREEK CONSULATE GENERAL
IN ISTANBUL AND, ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, CLAIMED THAT
MOSLEM TEACHERS IN WESTERN THRACE WERE IN FACT TURKISH MILITARY
OFFICERS.

3. PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT PAPASPYROU INTERRUPTED BANDOUVAS SEVERAL TIMES AND ASKED HIM TO STICK TO THE POINT OF HIS QUESTION, CAUTIONING HIM NOT TO DISCUSS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS GENERALLY IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING CARAMANLIS-ECEVIT SUMMIT MEETING. AN ACRIMONIOUS PERSONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO QUICKLY ENSUED WHICH LED TO THE SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION FOR SEVERAL MINUTES. EVENTUALLY THE ATMOSPHERE COOLED, AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREAS ZAIMIS REPLIED TO BANDOUVAS' QUESTION FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS (THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF FRIDAY'S SESSION ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE), ZAIMIS INDICATED IN REPLY TO THE QUESTION ABOUT TURKISH VISA REQUIREMENTS THAT EACH GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE WHATEVER REQUIREMENTS IT WISHED AND POINTED OUT THAT GREEK VISA REQUIREMENTS WERE EVEN MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE OF TURKEY. ZAIMIS WENT ON TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE GOG HAD MADE REPEATED PROTESTS TO THE GOT ABOUT THE SURVEILLANCE EXERCISED OVER ITS CONSULATE GENERAL IN ISTANBUL.

5. COMMENT: BANDOUVAS HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN THE SOURCE OF TENSION IN THE PARLIAMENT BECAUSE OF HIS OFTEN INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE. WHAT WAS OF INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS INSTANCE WAS THE ATTEMPT BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE GENERAL TOPIC OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AT THIS TIME, JUST BEFORE THE SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS LATER THIS WEEK IN SWITZERLAND.
MILLS

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